

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/20/20**

Florence, New Jersey  
May 20, 2020

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting via teleconference on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Sandusky at 7:00 PM. Council President Sandusky led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was published in the Burlington County Times on April 3, 2020; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information.

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Bruce Garganio, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator, Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator, Kelly Grant, Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

Absent: None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None at this time.

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

- Court Administrator's Monthly Report for May 2020
- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for April 2020
- CFO's Cash Reports and Budget Reports for April 2020

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to approve the reports to receive and file. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Baldorossi, to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

### **REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

### **APPLICATIONS**

None at this time.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/20/20**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, thanked Public Works for installing the floating dock during the winds on Tuesday. A job well done.

Jason Van Lieu, 4 Lilac Lane, is looking to install an above ground pool. He was told by the construction office that he had too much non-impervious land with his request and he needed to get a land variance. He stated that the meeting was cancelled in May and he was told that it was impossible to do a video call for the June meeting and possibly not for July. He is asking why Council can meet via teleconference but the Zoning Board cannot. He stated that the pool has already been paid for and the yard has been prepared for the installation and he is seeking assistance from Council with the process.

Administrator Fazekas stated that legally we have 45 days to deem the application complete. Beyond that, we have an additional 120 days for it to go before the Board. It has been discussed with the attorney that represents the Township Zoning Board and it may be on the July meeting agenda. One of the issues is that the public has to be able to view the plan and we also have to be sure that the entire package has been deemed complete. We are within the rights to hold that for 45 days.

Mr. Van Lieu further explained that he understands the legality but his issue is that even after the township has 45 days to review the application and approve the permit, the public still has an additional 120 days beyond that to complain. He doesn't understand why he should have to be held up because the township is unable to hold the meetings. He said he would like to proceed and take on the liability. He is not attempting to build it himself; he has professional contractors and professional electricians coming in to do the work.

Mayor Wilkie explained that the Land Use laws of New Jersey do not apply to this Council meeting. Land Use laws are what governs when the Zoning and Planning Board can meet. When the Governor directed municipalities to hold remote meetings, he did not take into consideration the requirements that the public be able to view plans. Mayor Wilkie stated that he has had a number of opinions from Land Use attorneys who are uncomfortable holding public hearings for land use applications until the public can actually view the plans and that is why this is not going forward.

Mr. Van Lieu stated that it is unfortunate and he thanked Council for the time. Additionally, he asked after the 45 days and the additional 120 days before a public hearing, if they are unable to have this meeting in 120 days, does this mean he will have to restart the process?

Township Solicitor Kelly Grant explained after the 120 days she would think that, at best, it would be scheduled for the following meeting. But she thinks that within the next 120 days there will be some more guidance on what the Land Use Board can and cannot do.

Wendy Metviner, 18 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, inquired about codes regarding bee keeping on the avenues in Roebing. She said there is a resident with at least 10 hives in his backyard and she feels that it is a danger to those in the area.

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol said there are no codes specific to beekeeping. It is regulated by either the Department of the Agriculture and quite possibly the Department of Health. He asked that

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/20/20**

she reach out to him so that he can speak to her over the phone to gather some more information from her so he can help her.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-102**

**Approve Current Est. No. 2 Final Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower Piping Replacement**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-103**

**Authorize Refund FAAD Park Permit Fee**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-104**

**Authorize Refund FAAD Park Permit Fee**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-105**

**Regarding High Speed Internet Access**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-106**

**Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayment**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-107**

**Approve Current Estimate No. 2 Final Front Street Water Main Replacement**

#### **RESOLUTION NO 2020-108**

**Authorize Twp. Engineer to Prepare Plans, Specs & Solicit Bids for 2020 Road Program**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-109**

**Authorize Twp. Engineer to Prepare Plans, Specs & Solicit Bids for Burlington County Municipal Parks and Development Program Grant**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-110**

**Authorize Twp. Engineer to Prepare Plans, Specs & Solicit Bids for Phase II Reconstruction of Potts Mill Road**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-111**

**Authorize Twp. Engineer to Prepare Plans, Specs & Solicit Bids for 2019/2020 CDBG Program**

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution No. 2020-102 through 2020-111.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCES**

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/20/20**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04**

#### **Approve Redevelopment Plan 2001 Route 130, Block 159.02, Lots 6.01, 9 & 10 (Intro. & 1<sup>st</sup> Read) (2<sup>nd</sup> Read & Public Hearing 6/3/2020)**

Mayor Wilkie explained that this property is south on Route 130, the last property on the right. It is narrow in the front and goes back so many feet before it opens up. A small warehouse business is being proposed, about 60-70,000 square feet.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2020-04.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

Council President Jerry Sandusky spoke about the public works department installing sections of the boat dock during the high winds and sent his compliments to them. He also said that the public works department did an outstanding job on the community garden and the Veteran's Memorial. He stated that the removal of the railroad tracks will look nice once it is completed.

Councilman Woolston complimented the first responders for a job well done with the fire over the weekend.

### **REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Mayor**

Mayor Wilkie explained that a family lost their home on Saturday to a very quick moving fire. Bordentown Fire Department #2 was actually at the Florence Fire Company giving out hand sanitizer from a donation when the call came through. Florence directed Bordentown to go and they were able to get there shortly before Florence got there. It was a very sad, very quick moving fire. Sadly, this is the 4th major fire since December.

He also paid respect to a few long-time members of the community that have passed away. Mrs. Doris Krieger, who was a Roebling kindergarten and first grade teacher for many years. She passed away in April just shy of her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Also, with Memorial Day coming up, we lost one of our last World War II Veterans, Mr. Fran McCorriston, who also passed away in April.

The two American Legions plan to hold their services for Memorial Day. Post 194 will be at Fifth and Oak Streets a little after 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. They will also be going to the cemeteries and finish up at the Eagle monument at Front and Broad Streets and will disperse at their legion post.

Post 39 will gather on Monday at 10:00 a.m. for a short service. They will then go to a few monuments in Roebling, to the cemetery at Holy Assumption and the cemetery on Route 130 Southbound and finish up at the Fifth and Oak Streets circle. The Scouts will not be participating this year to comply with the social distancing guidelines.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/20/20**

He also mentioned, sadly, that the Patriotic Day Celebration is going to have to be canceled. He said that until the guidelines come out about being able to gather, he can't see having anything until after the restrictions are lifted. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the ending of WWII and something to commemorate that will be discussed and planned at a later time.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council President Jerry Sandusky stated that after the children go back to school perhaps, we can do something in late August, a parade or something for the kids going back to school. The Mayor mentioned that National Night Out has been postponed until October so we will need to see what the fall looks like on the calendar.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

None at this time.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

None at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Sandusky again opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, acknowledged Clerk Erlston for her part in the virtual meeting, providing the meeting number and password for the public to participate. He found it a very easy process. Clerk Erlston thanked Mr. Kamienski and said it was a shared effort.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/jns